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OCC-72-0146

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State Dept. review completed

7 February 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

SUBJECT : Laos Ad Hoc Group Meeting on 3 February 1972

Attached is the agenda for the meeting. It was followed. Action on the five major points was agreed upon as follows:

1) We agreed that the respective legal officers would concert on the language to be included in the forwarding memorandum on the Symington Amendment report. The major problems to be resolved are whether the intended report meets the legal requirement and whether the cover memorandum should be forthcoming about willingness to provide additional information. As of 7 February, State is sending a draft memorandum to the respective legal counsels.

2) Ambassador Sullivan decided that the RLAF ceiling problem was sufficiently well defined that it could be used to raise the question of whether the administration should ask for an increase in the ceiling. It was decided to ask for an SRG meeting to consider this point. There is disagreement between DOD and the field as to whether 3,000 T-28 sorties a month will exceed the ceiling. DOD costs out the flights at a cheaper rate than the field. Ambassador Godley's plan to increase the flights to 4,500 a month would increase the programmed T-28 costs even with the DOD costing, i.e., would exceed the ceiling.

3) On the four points raised in Secretary Laird's 29 January memorandum it was concluded:

a) DOD will prepare a scenario for use in public affairs channels to enable continuing interdiction in the trail if the Laos government attitude is forced to change.

b) DOD will prepare a study of alternatives to the Taksin plan. It was suggested that this study might take the place of NSSM 51/99.

c) Ambassador Sullivan reacted strongly to the suggestion that contingency plans should be formulated for support to an exile Laos government. He felt that any talk about support to other than the present government could be misinterpreted. He noted, too, that it might leak out of

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be discussed or committed paper.

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d) Ambassador Sullivan said that updating the negotiating scenario was in train and that State was sending a message to Godley for use in talking to Souvanna as Souvanna prepared his response to Souvannavong's 27 January proposal.

4) DOD is sending around a draft for coordination on the reorganization of military forces in Laos. This is a result of Secretary Laird's 6 January memorandum. We have coordinated on the draft with some reservations (which have been accepted). State is wrestling with some of the assumptions in the draft about future expenditure levels.

5) Sullivan said that he thought the comments made to Phoumi were not sufficiently clear to the effect that the U.S. would not support Phoumi. He said he would send us a memorandum on this which is presumably to go to Ambassador Unger [redacted]

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6) Ambassador Sullivan said that he would try to raise to the SRG meeting the issue of the outstanding response to Senator Stennis' letter to President Nixon about who should fund the war in Laos.

7) State plans to attempt to get the White House to focus on the need for an SRG meeting prior to the President's trip to China by suggesting it be held primarily to consider the situation in Laos. The above SRG items would be included in the agenda.

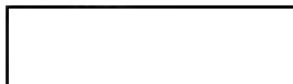
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Attachment: Agenda



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FE/TBL/[redacted]
Distribution:

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FROM: INR - STUART

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 2, 1972

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MEMORANDUM

TO : Members of Interagency Ad Hoc Group on Laos

NSC - [redacted]
CIA - [redacted]
DIA - Admiral Whitmore
ISA - Mr. Doolin
JCS - General Burrows

FROM : William H. Sullivan, Chairman

SUBJECT: Meeting of Interagency Ad Hoc Group on Laos

There will be a meeting of the Interagency Ad Hoc Group on Laos on Thursday, February 3, 1972, at 4:00 P.M., in Room 6210, Department of State.

Following is the agenda for the meeting:

1. Report to the Congress under the Symington Amendment, general problems including possible need for supplemental legislation.

SPA ✓ 2. RIAF ceiling problems (Vientiane 871 and 919).

4 points ✓ 3. Lao contingencies.

✓ A. Briefing by CIA on the military situation in MR-II including views of Ambassadors Godley and Unger.

b. concern on this B. Secretary Laird's January 29 Memorandum.

4. Reorganization of the military forces in Laos.

✓ A. Laird January 6 memorandum to SRG.

B. Draft Outline and message to field (Prepared by JS and ISA).

✓ 5. Guidance to Bangkok concerning Ex-General Phoumi Nosavan.

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also

Stuart